

# *The* **KINGBIRD**



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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS



# The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

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*Editor*—ALLAN S. KLONICK

*Associates*—JOSEPH W. TAYLOR  
EUGENE EISENMANN

*Circulation Manager*—MISS HELEN FOSTER

*Cover Design*—DOUGLAS L. HOWLAND

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APPLICATION for membership should be sent to the chairman of the membership committee:

MISS AUDREY L. WREDE  
3109 BEVERLY RD.  
BROOKLYN 26, N. Y.

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS - - - -

As this issue of *The Kingbird* goes to press the writer received a communication from a member of the Advisory Committee on Conservation to the Secretary of the Interior. This committee met the first week in November and offered the following recommendation:

"The Committee is opposed to the invasion of wildlife refuges by major engineering developments, unless it has been fully demonstrated that no other alternative exists, and that the public and interested organizations are informed of proposed action prior to any commitment thereon. With reference to Montezuma Refuge, the Committee recommends that no final permit be issued until the lack of a reasonable alternative is proved."

We sincerely hope that this will add further weight to all that has gone before, in urging the Secretary of the Interior to prohibit any violation of Montezuma Refuge.

Truly the "Montezuma Story" is a lesson for us all to remain alert and not to take-for-granted heretofore inviolate areas. We must dedicate ourselves to renewed vigilance, so that other "Montezumas" are nipped before they disappear in the paths of so-called progress.

A. S. K.

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### FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

Organized 1947

Winston W. Brockner 63 Ardmore Place Buffalo 13, New York	President 1951
Eugene Eisenmann 11 Broadway New York 4, New York	Vice-President 1951
Reginald W. Hartwell 121 North Fitzhugh Street Rochester 14, New York	Corresponding Secretary 1951
Albert Fudge 326 Larchmont Road Elmira, New York	Recording Secretary 1951
Mrs. William G. Irving Van Houten Fields West Nyack, New York	Treasurer 1951

## YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS — — —

Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, of the *Schenectady Bird Club*, has been appointed the new Program Chairman for the Federation. It is not too early to prepare papers for the next annual meeting in May. Correspondence or any questions should be mailed directly to Dr. Scotland, 42 Continental Avenue, Cohoes, New York.

The *Schenectady Bird Club* has announced that Samuel R. Madison, of Delmar, has been appointed General Chairman of the Local Committee, for our next annual meeting at Schenectady.

The Schenectady club is to be congratulated for getting plans rolling early, for this meeting. Plans indicate that this fifth anniversary convention of the Federation will be outstanding.

Miss Audrey Louise Wrede, of the *Brooklyn Bird Club*, has been appointed Chairman of the Membership Committee. Miss Wrede succeeds Mrs. James Davis, of the *Genesee Ornithological Society*. The Federation owes a great debt of gratitude to Mrs. Davis, for the very fine and outstanding work she did in increasing the membership of the Federation. This organization expanded greatly under her able direction. Miss Wrede solicits the co-operation of everyone for there is still urgent need for *many, many* more individual members! Miss Wrede's address is 3109 Beverly Rd., Brooklyn 26, New York.

We are pleased and proud to announce the return of Fred Hall, to New York State. You will recall that he was our first Recording Secretary. Fred has been appointed the director of the Buffalo Museum of Science. We expect to see him around again at our annual meetings.

Those of you who were fortunate enough to attend the 1950 annual meeting at Watkins Glen readily recall the interesting field trip to the Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge. You will remember the area in which we observed the Blue Goose. The State of New York plans to construct the Thruway through the heart of that wonderful spot. The Federation through its members has attempted to alter these plans, but unfortunately the project has progressed almost beyond the point of reconsideration. Those who have written and talked on behalf of a realignment are to be congratulated for their efforts. Our case was carried not only by local press and radio, but featured editorially in several national publications. Letters should still be sent to Secretary of the Interior, Oscar Chapman, Washington, D. C., and Bertram D. Tallamy, New York State Thruway Commission, State Office Building, Albany, informing them that you disapprove of the project invading a heretofore inviolate refuge.

Congratulations to birders in Syracuse. They have organized the *Onondaga Audubon Society* with over sixty members. We urge them to join us and look forward to their participation in our activities.

This is my last opportunity to write to you through this column. It has been wonderful; a privilege and a joy. I have enjoyed it immensely. On January first, your President-elect assumes full responsibility for the guidance and welfare of the Federation. Extend to him your complete co-operation. He is capable and fully qualified to take the helm. I thank each and every member, and all the clubs for their splendid co-operation and support.

Winston William Brockner

## BIRD NOTES FROM ESSEX COUNTY

By GEOFFREY CARLETON

Essex County, New York, contains the high mountains of the Adirondacks, including Mt. Marcy and most of the peaks above 4,000 feet. The area is mainly in the Canadian Zone, with a belt of Transition Zone along the west side of Lake Champlain. In the Canadian Zone coniferous forest predominates, and many warblers, seen at lower elevations and farther south in the State as migrants, are here nesting species. Certain other essentially boreal birds regularly breed in New York in this county and the adjacent areas.

Although useful data is contained in A. A. Saunders' *Summer Birds of the Northern Adirondack Mts.* (Roosevelt Wild Life Bull., v. 5, No. 3, Syracuse Univ. 1929), the most recent comprehensive account of the bird life of Essex County must still be sought in Eaton's *Birds of New York* (1910-1914). For an area of such special interest an up-to-date county list would seem to be long overdue. Meanwhile the appended records are submitted, as they involve species not listed from the county by Eaton or help to clarify the status of other species.

The Adirondack Mountains appear to lack the great "waves" of transients that characterize migration around New York City and many other parts of the State. Flocks of perching birds, especially warblers, are composed mostly of summer resident species, so one can rarely determine the dates when the more northern-breeding individuals depart in the spring or arrive in the fall. Some of the breeding species appear surprisingly early, often before the leaves are fully out. A good spring coverage requires visits to many breeding sites located during previous summers. Many interesting Essex County records are obtained fortuitously, such as by discovery of birds along a roadside from a car; fewer by working concentration areas.

I have no records of perching birds occurring here as casual transients that have overshot more southerly breeding ranges. Such rarities as do appear are generally breeders or possible breeders: Rough-winged Swallow, Louisiana Water-thrush, Towhee, Cardinal (?), and, formerly, Orchard Oriole. Certain open country birds barely reach the county: Mourning Dove, Red-headed Woodpecker, Purple Martin, and Loggerhead Shrike (formerly bred). I do not know of any Essex County record of the Connecticut Warbler.

The following records are based on sight observations of the author unless otherwise credited. An asterisk indicates a species not reported from Essex County by Eaton. The English names are those adopted by *Audubon Field Notes* for the species in an inclusive sense.

\**Red-necked Grebe*. Essex, May 6, 1935.

\**American Egret*. 3, Bulwagga Bay, Aug. 9, 1947; several reports by residents along Lake Champlain in August in recent years.

\**Least Bittern*. Apparently breeds at Ticonderoga. Latest Aug. 29, 1935.

\**Green-winged Teal*. Ticonderoga, Aug. 20, 1946.

\**Ring-necked Duck*. Lewis, Oct. 25, 1937; 80, Lewis, Oct. 22, 1946.

\**Ruddy Duck*. Female, Elizabethtown, Aug. 6, 1938.



\**Turkey Vulture*. High Lands, Sept. 26, 1932 (R. Thew and H. Finney). The bird was reported swooping at a live calf, and when collected had some hair in its claws. The specimen was seen by the author in Gordon's store, Keeseville.

\**Golden Eagle*. New Russia, Sept. 12, 1933 (C. H. Rogers).

*Peregrine Falcon*. Giant Range from April 12, 1935 to Sept. 23, 1935.

\**Florida Gallinule*. Apparently breeds at Ticonderoga. May 10, 1936 to Oct. 14, 1935.

*Solitary Sandpiper*. Ticonderoga, Oct. 14, 1935.

*Sanderling*. Port Henry, Aug. 24, 1949.

\**Baird's Sandpiper*. 2 carefully studied, Essex, Oct. 29, 1937.

\**Iceland Gull*. Willsboro, Nov. 3, 1937.

*Mourning Dove*. Rare summer resident at Willsboro (A. G. Paine); seen there by the author Oct. 9, 1933.

*Whip-poor-will*. Elizabethtown, Sept. 22, 1936.

*Olive-sided Flycatcher*. Hurricane, May 13, 1936.

*Rough-winged Swallow*. Rare transient; may breed. Ticonderoga, April 30, 1935 and July 10, 1932. Essex, May 31, 1935. A pair at Elizabethtown in June, 1941.

*Purple Martin*. Breeds at Westport, Essex and Willsboro. Essex, April 15, 1936 (Mrs. S. A. Powell) to Westport, Aug. 18, 1947 (Mrs. D. Floyd).

*Winter Wren*. Elizabethtown, Dec. 10, 1937.

\**Short-billed Marsh Wren*. Willsboro, April 30, 1891 (in coll. A. G. Paine). In summer at North Elba (A. A. Saunders), earliest there May 8, 1936 (Carleton). Westport, 2 singing in a dry alfalfa field in June. Street Road, June (locality since destroyed).

*Wood Thrush*. Elizabethtown, April 30, 1936 (Mrs. W. H. Hubbard).

*Loggerhead Shrike*. Willsboro, April 14 and 21, 1888 (in coll. A. G. Paine); Aug. 2, 1950 (P. N. Jackson). Crown Point, May 10, 1936. North Elba, July 1925 and Aug. 9, 1926 (A. A. Saunders).

*Philadelphia Vireo*. Heart Lake, July 7, 1932 and July 6, 1933.

*Black and White Warbler*. Elizabethtown, Sept. 27, 1932.

*Tennessee Warbler*. Found breeding by A. A. Saunders. Mt. Hurricane, at 2000 feet elevation, a singing male July 10, 1930 (Laidlaw Williams and Carleton). Rare spring, common fall transient at Elizabethtown: May 12, 1936; Aug. 19, 1932 to Sept. 29, 1932.

*Nashville Warbler*. Elizabethtown, May 4, 1936. Street Road, Oct. 24, 1937.

*Cape May Warbler*. Willsboro, May 8, 1887 (in coll. A. G. Paine), Elizabethtown, Aug. 20, 1932. One breeding record, July 14, 1947, North Elba (Carleton, H. H. Poor and O. K. Scott, Auk, 65 (4):607, 1948).

*Black-throated Green Warbler*. Elizabethtown, Oct. 25, 1937.

*Blackburnian Warbler*. Elizabethtown, May 4, 1936; Sept. 27, 1931.

*Chestnut-sided Warbler*. Elizabethtown, Sept. 26, 1932.

*Bay-breasted Warbler*. Breeds at Keene Valley, earliest arrival May 13, 1936. Common transient at Elizabethtown, June 1, 1935; Aug. 31, 1933 to Sept. 28, 1933.

*Black-poll Warbler*. Common transient at Elizabethtown, June 4, 1926; Aug. 28, 1932 to Oct. 11, 1932.

*Palm Warbler*. Casual transient. Elizabethtown, May 20, 1935 (Western Palm Warbler); Oct. 14, 1932 (Yellow Palm Warbler).

\**Louisiana Water-Thrush*. Probably breeds at Ticonderoga (seen June 6, 1941). Definitely breeds at Port Henry: parent and young seen June 1941; nest and five eggs seen June 13, 1947. This may well be the northernmost breeding of this species anywhere.

*Mourning Warbler*. Breeds as high as 3900 feet. May 24, 1936 (North Elba) to Aug. 30, 1935 (Schroon River, C. H. Rogers).

*Common Yellow-throat*. Elizabethtown, Oct. 10, 1932.

*Orchard Oriole*. The writer has seen an adult male that had been collected by George Williams at Crown Point in the 1890s. I know of no records since Eaton's time.

*Rusty Blackbird*. Newcomb, June 26, 1932. Transient at Elizabethtown, May 21, 1935. Elk Lake, early July, 1944, pair regularly on territory, presumably breeding (J. L. Bull, E. Eisenmann, H. H. Poor, C. H. Rogers).

\**Cardinal*. The author received reports of males at Wadhams, summer of 1933, and at Crown Point, summer of 1935. These are interesting in the light of recent northern records in *Audubon Field Notes*.

\**Pine Grosbeak*. Uncommon but regular winter visitant. Specimens in collection of A. G. Paine at Willsboro bear dates Dec. 17, 1889 to March 15, 1890.

*White-crowned Sparrow*. North Elba, May 26, 1935. Wadhams, Dec. 6, 1937, an adult near a barnyard bare of snow.

*Lapland Longspur*. Willsboro, Nov. 6, 1887 (in coll. A. G. Paine).

Washington Square Library  
100 Washington Square East  
New York 3, New York

ED. NOTE:—Although this article is not in any sense definite as to be all inclusive, it should stimulate publication of more Essex County records and for other counties of New York State.—E.E.

## THE BARROW'S GOLDENEYE IN NEW YORK — ADDENDA

By KENNETH C. PARKES

In my article on the status of Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*) in New York (*Kingbird* I, 3:54-56, 1951), I overlooked two published records of this species. They are as follows:

A specimen was collected at Addison Island in the St. Lawrence River off the village of Waddington on December 19, 1943 (*Kutz, Auk* 66: 80-81, 1949).

A pair was reported seen by A. M. Decker at Sodus Bay on February 21, 1949. This record was published in the Ontario-Western New York Region report in *Audubon Field Notes* 3: 168, 1949.

My information concerning the present status of Barrow's Goldeneye on eastern Long Island was derived from hearsay, and apparently was not accurate. I am reliably informed that the species is by no means as regularly reported as I implied in the last paragraph of my article.

## THE VERDI BURTCH MEMORIAL SANCTUARY IS ESTABLISHED AT BRANCHPORT, NEW YORK

It takes only a little idea, tenaciously held, to realize a cherished desire. When Verdi Burtch died in 1945 many of his friends tried to fill the void by finding ways to perpetuate his enthusiasm and to continue his valuable observations. At that time the *Keuka Park Conservation Club* began the Verdi Burtch Memorial Lectures which have been well supported.

The idea of securing the marsh at Branchport as a sanctuary for wildlife was purposed. Steps were taken to investigate the possibility of buying the land. This proved difficult at first but after several years, success has been achieved.

Last spring a rumor that the end of Keuka Lake at Branchport was to be developed for cottage sites was the stimulus for immediate action. Members realized that they could not stem the tide of "progress" entirely. So, they compromised by securing about six acres of cattail marsh west of the inlet and south of the highway. The area includes not only the cattail marsh but some bordering, higher land and patches of sedges where Mr. Burtch used to set his traps for bird banding. Here he often banded the Nelson's Sparrow which is rare in this vicinity.

The sanctuary may be entered by a right of way through the Burtch property or by boat through the inlet to the "basin" where the ducks, geese and swans feed in season and the shore birds stop when the water level is low enough to expose the mud.

The project was quite simple. Club members learned that they could buy the area for six hundred dollars. There are about thirty-five members in the club and in addition, Mr. Burtch had many admirers and friends. Members started their campaign by publishing a letter in several local papers which set forth the value of preserving samples of different habitats in this vicinity. They gave some emphasis to the contribution of marshes but did not mention the specific project.

Later, two letters were written: one to the club members, another to friends whom they thought might like to share in the project. The response was most heartening. Six hundred dollars was quickly raised and the deed was registered.

There remains only the matter of having appropriate signs made and raising a fund to maintain the property. There is land that could well be planted to attract more birds and bring into a small area many plants that are native here, but are disappearing as land use brings about changes.

*The Keuka Park Conservation Club* is grateful to many of the members of the Federation for helping to make this dream a reality.

There are now two distinctly different areas set aside where many forms of wildlife can find sanctuary and where members can find refreshment and enlightenment. The other area is the Keuka College woodlot which has been under members guidance since 1936.

Hazel R. Ellis  
Keuka Park Conservation Club



## J. Southgate Y. Hoyt

New York State ornithology suffered a great loss in the death of Dr. J. Southgate Y. Hoyt on June 1, 1951, in Memorial Hospital, New York City. Dr. Hoyt was perhaps best known among professional ornithologists for his studies on the life history of the Pileated Woodpecker. His pet Pileated Woodpecker, "Phloep", lived  $9\frac{1}{2}$  years, and was the only such bird ever successfully raised in captivity. A note on longevity in this species in the current issue of "Bird-banding", written during Dr. Hoyt's last illness, represents the last of a number of ornithological papers, both in technical and popular journals.

Dr. Hoyt, 38, had been on the staff of the Laboratory of Ornithology, Department of Conservation, Cornell University. During the summers he was Director of Natural History at the Cold Spring Harbor Biological Laboratory, Long Island. He held the B. S. degree from Washington and Lee University, and the M. S. and Ph. D. from Cornell. He served for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years in the Medical Department of the U. S. Army, and was a member of over a dozen societies in the field of natural history, including the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs.

Within New York, Dr. Hoyt was widely known for his radio talks and extension lectures on bird life. He had built up a large collection of still and motion pictures, and his home in Etna is a veritable museum of natural history, constantly visited by local children. Many young people received their first knowledge of nature, and developed an enthusiasm for nature study through contact with the Hoyts. Dr. Hoyt was Scoutmaster of the local Boy Scout troop.

Dr. Hoyt's natural history interests were many and varied, and his was a contagious enthusiasm. His home, his laboratory and his fine library were always at the disposal of interested friends of any age. His activities continued almost unabated until the very last period of a long and painful illness, and his cheerfulness and courage were an inspiration to his many friends.

Dr. Hoyt is survived by his wife, Sarah Foresman Hoyt, and by two brothers. Mrs. Hoyt is planning to continue as much as possible of her husband's work; adding to his photographic collection, lecturing, and completing his unfinished writings.

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## WHEATEAR ON WESTERN LONG ISLAND

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Allan D. Cruickshank in "Birds Around New York City", 1942, mentions the Greenland Wheatear, *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*, as an accidental visitor from the far north with Griscom listing three specimens taken on Long Island, the last near Jamaica in 1885. Two recent records are listed: one at Montauk, December 27, 1936 (L. Breslau) and another at Moriches Inlet, June 3, 1941 (R. Wilcox). These appear to be all the reports for the New York City region.

On a sloping hill of dirt, rocks and some newly seeded and maturing grass plots in the Glen Oaks Village development, near Little Neck, twelve-year-old William Schoeffel, accompanied by his father George Schoeffel,

sighted a Wheatear on the morning of September 9th. During the day the bird would perch for some time on a large rock offering good chances for observation. On the same day, the Schoeffels, who are members of the Queens County Bird Club, notified five top rank birders of the club who came over and verified the identification.

The bird was seen until early evening of that day, on September 13, by this writer, and by various individuals, including the Schoeffels who live nearby, through September 15.

During its stay the Wheatear's habits were studied and it appeared to be entirely silent, and no phonetics of any kind were heard. According to the Schoeffels it remained rather solitary and when two Prairie Horned Larks alighted briefly on the hillside, it joined them for a few minutes and then flew off by itself. Late in the day observations indicated that the bird spent the night on the ground in the matured grasses and weeds at the foot of the hill.

The Wheatear resembled a Robin while on the ground, travelling a few steps, stopping, and then advancing again. Very often it flew up on rocks, logs or other projections and at times onto the roofs of houses. On one occasion it alighted on the eaves and hopped rapidly up to the ridge of the roof where its Blue-bird-like shape stood out in profile against the sky. Standing rather upright, it occasionally flirted and spread its tail and from its prominent perch was seen to fly out after passing insects, somewhat similar to the actions of the Cedar Waxwing.

Its preference for bare surfaces and barren surroundings was quite evident and its food was largely gleaned from these open surroundings. The Schoeffels and other members of the Queens County Bird Club found its food to consist largely of grasshoppers and it was described as quite active in capturing these. It would catch one and throw it on the ground. Sometimes the grasshopper would fly away, but if stunned, or injured otherwise, it would be eaten. After chasing a grasshopper it would fly back to a rock or log and await another. The bird was not opposed to a windfall so to speak, for when William Schoeffel laid a small handful of dead grasshoppers on a rock frequented by it (bait which he had acquired for fishing) it ate them all.

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## CONSERVATION NEWS AND NOTES

WALTER ELWOOD, *Chairman, Conservation Committee*

We can have conservation troubles — believe it or not — even without a session of the legislature.

The word which finally leaked out about the State Thruway's bright plans to go crashing for three miles through the heart of the Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge, through pond and marsh, certainly gave us a smack right between the eyes. Murder, we said.

Far be it from us to accuse the State Thruway Authority of publicity-seeking on this little arrangement between itself and Washington. And far be it from us to claim we understand the attitude of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in consenting to such a lamentable intrusion into a territory it is supposed to safeguard. Maybe we should have learned by this time not to expect much sympathy from Secretary of the Interior Chapman, the

gentleman who put the stamp of his approval, as you recall, on those much-protested dams in Dinosaur National Monument, who is apparently disinterested in the protection of the bald eagle in Alaska, and is obviously a stout believer in "Progress", let the chips fall where they may.

Since the State Thruway Authority considers its plans all set, it is only Washington, D. C., apparently, that can now save the day. A proper degree of pressure applied in that quarter, and in sufficient volume, could well persuade the Fish and Wildlife Service to reconsider its agreement and to withdraw its consent to the routing now in the blue prints.

An alternative routing is, of course, possible, one that would by-pass the endangered area. That is all we are praying for.

The response to our Federation Bulletin has been outstanding, so many of our affiliated clubs and cooperators having taken this issue to heart, and pen in hand, besides. Fifteen radio stations put it on the air. A brave start has been made in our campaign.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Panther Mountain dam issue which common sense told us was respectably dead and buried has walked right out of its shroud and into our midst again, as full of life as ever. October 2 was the deadline in State Supreme Court for the filing of arguments challenging the constitutionality of the Stokes law barring the building of the dam. The Black River Regulating District is seeking, in addition, a court order condemning 3,100 acres of the Adirondack League Club's holdings. The Attorney General's office states it will "vigorously defend" the Stokes Law.

\* \* \* \* \*

I hope many of you have had a chance to read Lieutenant-Governor Frank C. Moore's stout-hearted address on "Our National Resources" given at the Izaak Walton League banquet in Utica on September 14. His courageous stand in defense of our Forest Preserve merits our warmest commendation. He is all for more adequate constitutional safeguards against such threats as the Panther Mountain dam represents. He believes the State should own more than the forty per cent it now owns within the established boundary lines of the Forest Reserve, and that it should make more of an effort to acquire private holdings, especially along waterways.

\* \* \* \* \*

For the first time in New York State history, a conservation workshop for college instructors was put into operation in June. Five faculty members from each of the eleven State Teachers' colleges participated in this intensive stream-lined course developed around the fundamental natural resources of soil, water, forests fish and wildlife, to help them in their own newly established conservation training program for future teachers.

We have all been conscious, I suspect, of the perils for wildlife, birds in particular, bound up in the ever-expanding use of powerful insecticides and the ever more powerful ones being concocted. And now comes our State Health Department to warn us about one of these — parathion, so toxic that workers are admonished not even to enter fields for five days after spraying with this new dope. If a man can be made dangerously ill by walking through such a field forty-eight hours after the spray has been applied, it must be tough, to put it politely, on the vesper sparrows, meadowlarks, pheasants and all the rest of the ground-working birds.

The grove of sugar pines in California, the subject of years of strife between public interest and private enterprise, may yet be rescued. The U. S. Forest Service has promised to take steps to acquire the tract from the Pickering Lumber Company, offering the company other timberland in exchange, and has promised to leave the area inviolate so that, as funds are contributed, it can be added to the long-desired proposed State Park.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Fish and Wildlife Service has *not* turned in — shame on them! — a favorable report on the bill extending protection to the Bald Eagle in Alaska (H.R.1870). Alaskans don't like the bill, those at least who wrote in are dead set against it. The toes of local autonomy have been stepped on again!

In the interests of whittling down our national budget, the Department of the Interior will be obliged to abolish 4,180 jobs, including 105 in the Fish and Wildlife Service.

\* \* \* \* \*

Read "Enjoy Them While They Last" by Ben East, in *Natural History*, Sept. 1951. Its subtitle reads: "Our slaughtered shorebirds sound a grim warning for the vanishing wildlife of Alaska. Today the same lies are being invented by men unwilling to admit their own guilt in the killing." Mr. East's article is a deeply moving narrative.

### A NEW AUDUBON SOCIETY WILDLIFE REFUGE IN WESTERN NEW YORK

During April 1951 the *Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc.*, purchased a 48.5 acre tract of land in the Town of Java about 2 miles east of Java Village, N. Y. It originally comprised arable and non-arable land, a wooded hillside and two types of grassy marsh. Just to the east of this tract lay a large beaver-pond.

After negotiations with our farmer neighbors, who were eager for some of this arable land, the pond, lodge and dam became Audubon property with an increase of about 20 acres and the good will of our neighbors who will more or less act as wardens.

This pond covers about 20 acres and contains over 13 million gallons of water. Its value in maintaining water-table and atmospheric moisture is felt for miles around. It is a ready-made "project" for flood control.

Its abundance of aquatic plants and surrounding marshy terrain afford food and cover for several species of ducks and other marsh birds. Its large population of frogs, their tadpoles and other amphibia, which thrive on the well represented insect life, offer food for the feathered denizens of such an area, and even the dead trees present nesting sites for hole-nesting birds who find a bountiful supply of food right at hand.

Here we find an example of Nature's way of maintaining a balance, a self-sustaining area where the nature-lover, sportsman or student may come to relax and reflect on life as it was before "progress" took over. *The Buffalo Audubon Society*, present and future, and the little beavers intend to keep it so.

This fall the Soil Conservation Service, under the direction of Mr. Keil, will plant 11,500 coniferous trees and several thousand fruit-bearing shrubs on most of the non-arable land which will establish a foundation for future increases in the flora of the property. A 2 acre area will be set aside for annual planting of seed bearing crops for bird food.

As the development of this sanctuary proceeds its value as a community



service will increase, for here scout groups, 4-H clubs, garden clubs and other outdoor groups may come to increase their knowledge of the outdoors and leave with the feeling that a good step in the overall Conservation program has been taken. The entire property as well as that of our neighbors will be posted before the hunting season begins.

W. H. Almendinger, Vice-President  
Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc.  
Buffalo, New York

### 1952 CONVENTION NEWS

The Schenectady Bird Club, Inc., has already completed the preliminary ground work concerning meeting, housing and field trip arrangements for the fifth annual convention of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. It is anticipated that the convention in Schenectady on May 24th and 25th, 1952, will be the largest and best attended to that date.

Headquarters will be the Edison Golf Club, which offers excellent facilities for meetings and dinners. Field trips will be taken to many varied areas. The upper austral influence of the Hudson River Valley, the transition influence, which is dominant in the state, and the Canadian influence of the Adirondack foothills will all be incorporated in area trips.

Schenectady is unique in that it can be reached with ease from every bird club city in the state. It is located on the main line of the New York Central. Bus stations are centrally located, and both Albany and Schenectady airports are in the city's suburbs. Plan now to attend the convention — mark down May 24, 25, 1952. Further details about specific events and arrangements will be announced in future issues of *The Kingbird*. If you have some questions regarding the convention, address your queries to either:

Miss Nellie G. Van Vorst, Pres.  
Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.  
67 Snowden Ave., Schenectady, N. Y.

or

Samuel R. Madison, Chairman, 1952 Convention  
18 Oakwood Place, Delmar, N. Y.

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A 32 page book (9x6) listing over 200 species of birds with early and late dates from records compiled over a period of more than 25 years. Price 50c.

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### THE ROCKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

West Nyack, New York





## FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

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### SPECIAL NOTE

Through a circulation error some copies of **Vol. 1, No. 2** were inadvertantly mailed instead of **Vol. 1, No. 3**. If you did not get **Vol. 1, No. 3**, advise the publication office at once.

## REGIONAL REPORTS FOR FALL MIGRATION IN NEW YORK STATE

### REGION 1 — WESTERN NEW YORK

No report for this region was received to date. From recent issue of the *Prothonotary* (August and September) the following notes have been taken in lieu of more recent information. The editor of *The Kingbird* sincerely hopes that in the future all regions will cooperate fully, so that an accurate picture can be given of migration across the State.

#### LOONS — DUCKS:

Common Loon (1) July 11-21 at Findley Lake (Schaffner).

Brown Pelican (1) July 2 at Hanford Bay at the mouth of Cattaraugus Creek (W. Allair rep. Eschelmann). American Egrets present, but not overly common as in past years. Wood Duck reported in Beaver Dam Area (18), Bunntship Creek (22) and at Bliss (10) on July 7, 9 and 23 respectively.

#### HAWKS — OWLS:

First Osprey reported August 19 at Onoville (Sundell et al). Black Tern (3500 max.) August 23 (Mitchell) Niagara River. Several July records from Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Barysburg and Wellsville of nesting Screech Owls.

#### SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

Pileated Woodpecker July 10 at Bliss (Rosche), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, August 18 at Delaware Park (Mitchell) and Olive-sided Flycatcher, August 19 at Fluvanna (Beal). Purple Martins (1000 max.) at Delaware Park, Forest Lawn (Mitchell) August 18.

#### VIREOS — WARBLERS:

Blue-winged Warblers (5 max.) August 1-15 (R. H. Sundell and Nelson) at Dewittville. Tennessee, Blackpoll and Mourning Warblers observed at Delaware Park, August 25 (Mitchell, Kelly). Magnolia, Bay-breasted and Canada Warblers at Delaware Park, August 18 (Mitchell et al).

#### BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

Pine Siskins seen at Bemus Point, June 16, 18 (late) (Beal).

Slate-colored Junco, Buffalo, August 25 (first fall date) (Mitchell et al).

### REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER

(Including some records from Region 9)

Summers in our region are usually characterized by fairly long wet and dry "spells", which vary in sequence and duration from year to year. In 1951 wet weather generally prevailed through mid-July, followed by an extended dry period. There was nothing particularly abnormal about the summer, and no general marked trend was visible among the birds.

#### LOONS — DUCKS:

White Pelican — The bird mentioned in the June-July report remained at Montezuma all through the summer, and was seen by many observers. Mrs. Hoyt and Miss Thorpe saw it on September 17, and believed they observed it in the act of finally leaving the refuge. This is confirmed by the refuge manager, who stated on September 26 that he had not seen the

Pelican for over a week.

American Egret — As indicated in the June-July report, Egrets were seen unusually early in the summer this year. By late summer there were probably several dozen at Montezuma. A few were still there on September 26 (P. P. Kellogg et al).

Baldpate — In recent years spectacular flocks of Baldpates, numbering into the thousands, have gathered at the Montezuma refuge preparatory to the southward flight. Several observers reported a large flock accumulating during the last two weeks of September.

Green-winged Teal — Although this species has not been proved to nest at Montezuma, at least in modern times, there is evidence that it may do so. A pair and two additional males were seen on June 3 (K. C. Parkes et al) at Montezuma, a pair, also at Montezuma, on August 4 (A. A. Allen et al), and two pairs were seen at Ithaca on September 3 in company with a Shoveller and several pairs of Blue-winged Teal; both of the latter species are known to nest at Montezuma (K. C. Parkes).

#### HAWKS — OWLS:

Ruffed Grouse — Reports from all over the region indicate that this species is at or nearing its peak in numbers.

Ring-necked Pheasant — This species, too, is more abundant than it has been for several years. Pheasants are either less shy or more foolhardy than usual, as many are being found killed on the highway.

Coot — Coot production at Montezuma, chief breeding ground of the species in New York, was apparently quite low this year. Broods seen during the summer were very noticeably fewer than last year.

Shore birds — One of the few really favorable places in the Cayuga Lake basin to observe shore birds is a mud-flat at the southwestern corner of the lake, known locally as the "Hog Hole". Killdeer and Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers have, as usual, made up the bulk of the migrating flocks seen this year. Other interesting shore birds seen include Golden Plovers on September 2 (W. J. Hamilton III) and September 20 (A. A. Allen et al), Hudsonian Curlew on September 1 (Myers Point — W. J. H. III), Baird's Sandpiper on August 6 (W. J. H. III), Stilt Sandpiper on September 3 (W. J. H. III), Western Sandpiper on August 26 (K. C. Parkes et al), Hudsonian Godwit, a very rare bird in the interior of New York, on September 1 (W. J. H. III), and Northern Phalarope on September 3 and 4 (W. J. H. III). All of the above reports were of single birds. From one to three White-rumped Sandpipers were frequently seen among the smaller "peeps" during August and early September (K. C. Parkes), rather early for this species at Ithaca. Dowitchers have been conspicuous by their absence this year. The pair of Upland Plovers raised young at their usual site just west of Dryden, but were apparently very late in arriving at the nesting field (P. M. Kelsey).

Great Black-backed Gull — An individual of this species appeared at the south end of Cayuga Lake on the unprecedented date of July 31, and was seen continuously thereafter. The earliest previous fall record was during the last week of September, 1949. The 1951 bird was molting into its first black-winged plumage.

Caspian Tern — Three were seen at the head of Cayuga Lake at Ithaca

on several occasions during early September. The species is of irregular occurrence here.

Mourning Dove — Numbers reported as unusually high throughout Tompkins County this summer and fall (W. Sickles).

#### SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

Flicker — Reported as especially abundant this fall at Montezuma and elsewhere in the Cayuga Lake Basin (Mrs. Hoyt and Miss Thorpe).

Crow — Numbers reported as particularly high by Paul Kelsey, District Game Manager.

Tufted Titmouse — The bird which appeared at Stewart Park, Ithaca, on May 26 (see June-July report) remained all summer and was still present by the last week in September. Only this single bird was reported.

Carolina Wren — The individual which was mentioned in the March-April report resided continuously at Dr. Allen's home in Ithaca through the winter of 1950-51, and disappeared in late April or early May. A single Carolina Wren appeared here for a single day only, on September 10.

Mockingbird — Three Mockingbird records in a single year is unprecedented here. One at Ithaca on May 12 was mentioned in the June-July report. Another was seen at the northeastern outskirts of Ithaca on September 17 (Mrs. Kapp and A. H. Wright). Most unusual of all was a pair which remained at the Morris farm at Mecklenburg for the five weeks following June 19 (Mrs. Bartlett). The male regularly sang from an apple tree, a telegraph wire and other conspicuous song perches. No definite indication of nest was found. The Mockingbird is not known to breed in New York at the present time, although it did so on Long Island during the Nineteenth Century.

Bluebird — Reported as unusually low in the general area northeast of Ithaca; several people stated that their regularly nesting pairs failed to show up this year (Mrs. Hoyt).

Cedar Waxwing — Mrs. Hoyt reports that a number of people have commented to her on the large number of Waxwings this fall in the Ithaca-Etna area. A fledgling just out of the nest in downtown Ithaca on September 25 represents a rather late breeding date for this species here.

#### VIREOS — WARBLERS:

Red-eyed Vireo — Bent (U. S. N. M. Bull. 197, 1950: 338) reported full-grown young Red-eyed Vireos being fed by their parents on September 8 in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. A similar family group was observed at the Danby beaver pond on September 8, 1951 (K. C. Parkes).

Warblers — Numbers and variety of migrants during September seemed very low to a number of observers.

#### BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

Goldfinch — An exceptionally good nesting year. At one regularly censused area in Ithaca, fully twice as many nests were located as were found last summer (A. A. Allen).

Chipping Sparrow — Reported in unprecedented numbers at Mrs. Hoyt's feeding station in Etna during September.

Kenneth C. Parkes  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, New York



## REGION 2 – SOUTHERN TIER – (PART 2)

The summer has not been exactly what one could regard as normal, as there were few really warm days, and after the middle of July there was little rain. August 31st was the warmest day, with temperature reaching 90 degrees. Birds appear to have required a longer time to molt than usual – at least, the period during which our common species are absent from “circulation” has been much longer, and extends even to the present. Few birds have been about in the past three weeks, and perhaps longer. A group of about a dozen of us meet at the end of each month to pool our individual lists for the month, and make up the list of species seen by us all, which list is published each month in the Penn Yan Chronicle-Express.

### LOONS – DUCKS:

Loons were rare on Keuka Lake this summer, although occasional individuals were seen. First fall Horned Grebe was recorded by the Keuka Park club on September 2; first Canada Geese, 27th; Baldpate, 21st; Green-winged Teal and Coot, 30th. Shore bird migration dates for the Keuka Park club included in September: Semipalmated Plover, 22nd; Black-bellied Plover, 16th; Lesser Yellowlegs, 22nd; Greater Yellowlegs, 27th; Pectoral Sandpiper, 22nd; Baird's Sandpiper, 2nd; Stilt Sandpiper, 30th; Sanderling, 3rd. First Semipalmated Sandpiper at Hammondsport July 31st, and Mrs. G. M. Welles of Elmira had Solitary Sandpiper on July 19th.

### HAWKS – OWLS:

Few hawks have been noted this summer, the Sparrow Hawk being the most generally distributed. A few pairs of Red-tails, and an occasional Sharp-shinned and Cooper's; Marsh Hawks rare. The Great Horned Owl was more vociferous than usual through August and September, possibly because of the unusual cool and fall-like weather. Screech Owls are fairly well distributed over the lakes area.

### SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

My last date on Chimney Swift is September 11, and on Hummingbirds the 17th. The writer discovered a small colony of Cliff Swallows, possibly 10 pairs, on a barn about a mile from Hammondsport; Mrs. Welles reports a new colony, half-dozen pairs, on a barn near Elmira airport at Big Flats. The farmer said this was their first season there. Last dates on Barn Swallows in this area, September 11; Cliff Swallow and Purple Martin, 6th. Keuka Park club had Least Flycatcher on September 11st, and my last date on Crested Flycatcher, Sept. 21st; Wood Pewee is still here at this writing – Oct. 4. A Red-breasted Nuthatch appeared in Branchport on Sept. 16; and first migrating Winter Wrens at Hammondsport on the 26th. I trapped and banded a Gray-cheeked Thrush on September 23; first Olive-backed Thrush on September 12. Wood Thrush was present throughout September, my last observation being the 30th. On August 6 I saw a Migrant Shrike at Italy Hill, 5 miles west of Branchport, at a point where Malcolm Lerch of Penn Yan had seen one a week previously; on the 26th of August a group of us starting for Montezuma Marsh saw one a mile north of Penn Yan. A. W. Fudge of Elmira, discovered Tufted Titmouse nesting in Chemung County, the first nesting record for that area.

### VIREOS – WARBLERS:

Last dates on vireos reported: Yellow-throated, September 9th; Red-eyed,



20th; Warbling, 22nd. No Philadelphias reported. Blue-headed vireos, probably but one pair, were on the big gully leading off to the south from Hammondsport all summer. Last dates on warblers reported by the Keuka Park club: Black and White, September 7st; Tennessee, Orange-crowned and Cape May, 3rd; Nashville and Wilson's, 22nd; Parula, Black-poll and Chestnut-sided, 16th; Magnolia, October 2; Black-throated Blue, 30th; Oven-bird Canada and Redstart, 2nd. First date for Myrtle Warbler, Sept. 19.

#### BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

Keuka Park club reported Rusty Blackbirds on September 30. Grackles dropped from sight the middle of September, although I believe it is for the period of the molt, after which they will reappear. Cowbirds were absent between the 18th of August and September 24th, but now, the first week in October, they are again about in some numbers. Last Baltimore Oriole, Sept. 3rd. Last date on Scarlet Tanager, September 18th. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Hammondsport throughout the month, last observation being the 29th. First migrating dates for Sparrows: Slate-colored Junco, Sept. 28; White-throats, 26th; and Lincoln's Sparrow, 20th. The writer trapped and banded a Henslow's Sparrow on September 30th.

Charles J. Spiker  
Branchport, N. Y.

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### REGION 3 — LAKE ONTARIO

This report covers the fall migration up to September 31. As of that date the season has been very regular, marked by normal weather conditions and the absence of any great number of unusual observations. One factor resulting in the comparative scarcity of some species has been the continuing high water level of Lake Ontario and the resulting lack of extensive mud flats or beach areas. Small bird migration appears normal. Fairly intensive attempts to find extensive hawk migrations in fall in this area produced almost no results.

#### LOONS — DUCKS:

First Common Loons appeared on September 29, as did an early Holboell's Grebe. A Double-crested Cormorant was seen at Sodus Bay on August 18, and others have been reported since mid September. The northward movement of American Egrets was disappointing in this area, except at Montezuma, probably due to high water conditions.

Canada Geese, first reported on September 23. Flight of early ducks appears normal to date — has not yet reached its peak. First Redheads reported on September 29. Scaup (species?) same date. The Hooded Merganser and Green-winged Teal reported on August 7 and July 28, respectively, may have been non-breeding birds (Listman—Scottsville Road).

#### HAWKS — OWLS:

Scattered reports of hawks (they apparently drift south through this area without much pattern — in contrast to concentrated flights in Spring.) Broadwings appear in late August, others follow through September and later. Duck Hawk at Braddocks Bay on September 1. Bald Eagles and Ospreys scattered through September.

Shore bird migration unspectacular to say the least. Habitat conditions

very unfavorable for most species. Piping Plover — two separate reports on September 22. Black-bellied and Golden Plover (Bieber) on September 29 at Braddocks Bay. Black-bellied also on August 5. One Willet at Braddocks Bay on August 11 (Barry). No other large shore birds reported. Most of the regular shore birds appeared about on schedule but in small numbers and scattered localities. Many species were reported only a few times.

The first Black-backed Gulls appeared on September 3 at Sodus Bay and on September 15 at Braddocks Bay. Caspian Terns were back by August 4. Black Terns were still present on September 22.

A Barn Owl was seen at Ling Road on August 4 (Listman) and an immature Saw-whet Owl was present at the same spot on June 24, suggesting a breeding pair in this area (Tanghe et al).

#### SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

Chimney Swifts were still being reported at end of month while the late date for Nighthawk was September 20. Pileated Woodpecker at Chili on September 30. Swallows pretty well gone by late September except for Tree Swallows and an occasional Barn Swallow. Cliff Swallow on September 29. Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported from Durand Eastman Park before August 1 and have been quite common since. This is interesting since this species had been unusually scarce the preceding year. Winter Wren was back by September 29, while the House Wren had disappeared by mid September, apparently early. Thrushes, except Hermit Thrush, were gone by end of September. Groups of migrant Robins becoming evident. Both Kinglets were common by late September. Pipit reported on September 22.

#### VIREO — WARBLERS:

A few migrant Philadelphia and Blue-headed Vireos in September along with more common species. Warbler migration fairly good on many days in late August and September — most species recorded a few times. Blue-winged Warbler apparently nested in Chili woods (Bieber-Listman).

#### BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

Last date Bobolink reported September 9 (early?). Baltimore Oriole also appears to have departed early. Purple Finches appeared by September 3 and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were migrating on September 29. No reports on Pine Siskins this fall. First Juncos on September 9, no Tree Sparrows to date. White-throated Sparrows returned by September 14 and White-crowned Sparrows by September 29. No Fox Sparrows reported yet.

Richard T. O'Hara,  
100 Fernwood Park,  
Rochester, N. Y.

NOTE—Omission in last issue: Large Hawk flight on April 28 and April 29. Birds were following usual spring route along south shore of Lake Ontario from west to east.

April 28th flight included: 1092 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 200 Broad-winged Hawks and 1 Osprey.

April 29th flight included: 825 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 4124 Broad-winged Hawks, 5 Rough-legged Hawks, 9 Ospreys, 4 Bald Eagles, 2 Golden Eagles, 1 Duck Hawk, 1 Pigeon Hawk, and 4 Turkey Vultures with other species in scattered numbers.

## REGION 4 — ST. LAWRENCE

The summer was cooler than usual in this area with considerably more precipitation. September was warm and fair with only one light frost.

### LOONS — DUCKS:

One Red-throated Loon, Sandy Pond on September 30 — dead on beach (Minor and Scheider) and one Holboell's Grebe on September 30, Sandy Pond (Minor and Scheider). A few American Egrets reported this summer but no influx noted. One American Brant on September 23 (Spofford and Scheider), and one White-winged Scoter, male, flying and sitting on pond side of dune — not on open lake (Minor and Scheider) on September 30.

### HAWKS — OWLS:

First evidence of migration noted in late August when Sharp-shins were observed. Late in September numerous reports of Red-tailed Hawks. One Duck Hawk, September 30, at Sandy Pond (Minor and Scheider) headed south. Three Ruffed Grouse on September 30 at Sandy Pond (Minor and Scheider).

Upland Plover appears to be definitely on the increase in Jefferson County. Young birds were seen in two localities late in June. Shorebird migration in general was poor due to the high water condition of Lake Ontario for the second consecutive year. Piping Plover September 30 (Minor and Scheider) and Baird's Sandpiper September 23 and 30 at Sandy Pond.

Great Black-backed Gulls were observed September 23 (1) (Spofford and Scheider) and September 30 (2) (Minor and Scheider) at Sandy Pond. Also observed on September 16, 23 and 30, were numerous Ring-billed and Herring Gulls at Sandy Pond. Noteworthy, however, were 5 Caspian Terns, 4 Forster's Terns, the latter in winter plumage (Scheider) on September 16. 2 Caspian Terns were observed at Sandy Pond September 30 and one was seen at Big Galloo Island (Belknap) September 8.

### SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

A Mockingbird was observed on July 9 near Fulton, Oswego County (Kemnitzner). Red-headed Woodpeckers appear to be on the increase in this area. Two definite breeding records were established and the birds were observed in a number of other localities.

### WARBLERS — SPARROWS:

On September 16 at Sandy Pond, Scheider listed a good flight of Tennessee, Parula, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Myrtle, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers. A Blue-headed Vireo was observed singing with a flock of Golden-crowned Kinglets.

On September 30 at Sandy Pond there was a good movement of Robins, Chickadees, White-throated Sparrows, Myrtle Warblers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Winter Wrens and Red-breasted Nuthatches indicating migration from northern spruce woods (Minor and Scheider).

Twenty Pipits on beach at Sandy Pond September 16 (Scheider) and two Pine Siskins same day in dune woods. One Lapland Longspur (winter plumage) at Sandy Pond Inlet September 30 (Minor and Scheider).

John Belknap,  
92 Clinton St.,  
Gouverneur, N. Y.

## REGION 5 – ADIRONDACK

June and July were in general cold and there was heavy rainfall. The nesting success of passerine birds seems, from rather limited observation, to have been poor. Of four broods of Chipping Sparrows under observation, three were entirely lost and of the fourth brood only one out of four was reared to flight stage. August wet and cold. September about normal weather.

### LOONS – DUCKS:

No southern Egrets reported in central Adirondacks this summer to my knowledge. Average to good broods of Blue-winged Teal, Black Ducks, Wood Ducks and Ring-neck Ducks. Nesting of this last species has been believed to be occurring in Saranac Lake area for several years but conclusive proof has been lacking until this summer. Two broods of young were seen in Jones Pond near Gabriels, N. Y. on July 29 by Greenleaf Chase.

White-winged Scoter – A male found dead in a field at Bloomingdale, N. Y. (5 miles north of Saranac Lake) on August 13. This is an unusual species for central Adirondacks and at a rather early date. They occur regularly on Lake Champlain about 30 miles to the east.

### HAWKS – OWLS:

Ospreys nested on Little Clear Pond near Tupper Lake (Amstutz). A good season for Ruffed Grouse. Spruce Grouse (male) on October 8 near Paul Smith's (Meade). Sora and Virginia Rails reported from Tupper Lake during June and July by Dr. Kingsbury.

A flock of 50-60 Semipalmated Plover at Plattsburgh on June 2 (Provost). This offers additional evidence of the Champlain Valley as a minor fly-away.

### SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

Olive-sided Flycatcher were distinctly down in numbers this year in central Adirondacks. Three Northern Raven reported September 24 near Harrisville, N. Y. (on western edge of Adirondacks) by Greenleaf Chase.

Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen in Lake Placid area June 26 - July 9 (Kemnitzers). This is second year in succession they have been present here in breeding season.

### VIREOS – WARBLERS:

The writer was impressed this June and July, by the much less frequent hearing of warbler songs in general in the central Adirondack woods. I have a distinct feeling the numbers were down this year.

### BLACKBIRDS – SPARROWS:

Evening Grosbeaks, juvenile birds, were seen at several feeding stations in Saranac Lake village during July. Crossbills were present in area of Saranac Lake village and Paul Smith's until at least mid-June.

Gordon M. Meade, M. D.

Trudeau, N. Y.

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## REGION 6 – MOHAWK VALLEY

The summer was much cooler and wetter than usual; each of the four months showed a deficiency in average temperature (2 degrees in June and August), and each also showed an excess of rainfall; about an inch excess in June and September, and 2.6 in August. The maximum temperature reached was 90 on July 31, this was followed on August 6 by a record low of 49.



The great amount of rainfall and resulting high water caused considerably less nesting of water birds, and much fewer shore birds than usual.

#### LOONS — DUCKS:

American Egrets were not as common as last year, but were reported from mid-July to mid-September. An adult Little Blue Heron was seen at Saratoga Lake on August 18 (Yunick). A Least Bittern on September 16 was quite late.

Two Mute Swans, probably the same as those previously reported, were seen at various locations until June 8.

An attempt is being made to colonize Canada Geese locally; a planted pair raised four young at Watervliet Reservoir, observed June 8 (Van Vorst), and several flocks were seen in the same area through the summer.

#### HAWKS — OWLS:

Two Bald Eagles were seen; one June 10 at Berne swamp and one June 13 south of Castleton.

Virginia Rail was more in evidence than usual; several pairs and nests were reported throughout the summer.

A Sora was seen at Poentic Kill May 26 (Stone); also reported at this location was a very late Wilson's Snipe on June 9. A late Upland Plover was seen on September 16 on a scheduled field trip. Dowitcher, rare and irregular in this area, was seen on the same trip, along the Hudson to Catskill.

Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos, uncommon but regular, were observed in about usual numbers.

Barn Owl, very rare here, was seen July 10 at Loudonville (French).

#### SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

An Olive-sided Flycatcher, rare, seen on May 26. Purple Martins were reported twice, one on June 1 and two on August 24.

A high spot of the summer was a Carolina Wren, reported at the same location from mid-June through July 17 (Stone) at Rexford.

A Winter Wren on June 5 at Meadowdale was very late.

Mockingbird observed at Delmar September 26, accidental, third local record.

A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers with three young was reported at the outlet of Lake Lonely (C. R. Robbins); there have been only two previous records of this species, both of single birds, and both in the last three years.

#### VIREOS — WARBLERS:

Philadelphia Vireo, rare, on September 16 at Niskayuna.

There were a few Golden-winged Warblers reported, and no further Blue-winged.

A Cape May Warbler on August 31 was early in the fall migration.

Cerulean Warbler seen at new local area, Wolf Hollow, on May 20.

Pine and Prairie Warblers are becoming increasingly common summer residents.

Yellow-breasted Chats reported on several occasions; four seen and calling at Rosendale Road on July 17 field trip.

A Bobolink reported on September 20 was quite late.

Frazer R. Turrentine,  
110 Union St.,  
Schenectady, N. Y.



Summer weather was about normal as to temperature and moisture. September ran about one degree per day above normal in temperature, and had only about 20% of normal rainfall. Migrants seemed to start southward in numbers earlier than usual. By mid-August, the night skies were filled with the calls of southbound warblers. There seemed to be an unusually heavy crop of berries and seeds, especially wild grapes and dogwood.

#### LOONS — DUCKS:

Horned Grebe surpassed previous early date by two weeks, Sept. 23 at Grassy Point. Double-crested Cormorant not reported through September. White herons very scarce; only American Egrets seen, maximum of two. Wood Ducks apparently doing well; one flock of 14. Male Scaup in eclipse plumage, probably a cripple, at Grassy Point on July 22. Early date, Sept. 27, at Congers Lake for Ruddy Duck.

#### HAWKS — OWLS:

Early date, Sept. 10; at Blauvelt for Broad-winged Hawk. Fair hawk flight at Bear Mountain on Sept. 23, about 50 hawks and 30 Turkey Vultures.

Coot arrived early, Sept. 27 at Rockland Lake. Partial draining of one-acre pond near Grassy Point afforded best shorebirding in county's history. Second record for Pectoral Sandpiper, Sept. 23 (Dr. Hopper, Mrs. Hardman). Ringed Plover seen from Sept. 15 to Sept. 23, maximum of 6 birds. Semipalmated Sandpiper added to county list, Sept. 2 (Dr. Hopper), 20 birds, and seen through Sept. 23. Black-backed Gull seven weeks ahead of old early date, seen off Tarrytown Aug. 27 and many times thereafter. Common Terns slightly fewer than normal on Tappan Zee.

#### SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

More records for Alder Flycatcher in July than in any previous summer, all from marshy shore north of Haverstraw. Acadian Flycatcher identified by song, Sept. 10 (Deed). Red-breasted Nuthatches above normal in abundance from mid-August through September; new early date Aug. 17 (McClelland, Hoffman) at Lake Tiorati. Brown Creeper on breeding site in Palisades Interstate Park, July 29. Early date for Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Aug. 16.

#### VIROES — WARBLERS:

Warbling Vireo seems to be increasing in numbers at several restricted sites; new late date, Sept. 14, in Nyack. Both Brewster's (two birds) and Lawrence's Warblers seen at same time near Welch Lake, July 29, by Brown and Deed. New late dates, Sept. 27, for Tennessee Warbler; and Sept. 10 for Nashville Warbler. An early date, Sept. 10, for Parula Warbler. Best warbler waves on Sept. 10 and 16.

#### BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

Orchard Oriole, hitherto noted only in spring, seen several times in late July near West Haverstraw. Scarlet Tanagers abnormally abundant on fall migration. Purple Finches numerous well before their usual peak in mid-October. Lincoln's Sparrow watched at leisure at 10 feet, Sept. 16 (Deed); only second record for county, first in autumn. Early date for White-throated Sparrow, Sept. 17.

Robert F. Deed  
50 Clinton Ave.  
Nyack, N. Y.

## REGION 7 – NEW YORK

### (PART 2 – NEW YORK, BRONX, AND WESTCHESTER COUNTIES)

The nesting season seemed normal for this densely populated urban and suburban area. Suitable breeding habitats constantly become more restricted, so that now almost the only places where a variety of nesting birds can be found are the larger parks and certain other public or semi-public reservations. Even these are being rendered less attractive to wild-life by the draining of marshes and wooded swamps, and the cutting through of express highways. July and August migration appeared average, with few land bird migrants until August 13 and 26 (Carleton, Mrs. Messing). Many birds were noted flying over Bronx and Van Cortlandt Parks on the nights of September 1, 2, and 26 (Komorowski). There were moderate to good flights of migrants in Central Park on September 8, 18, 27, and 30, and October 10 (Carleton Mrs. Messing). The September hawk flight was poor.

#### LOONS – DUCKS:

Black-crowned Night Herons roost throughout the summer, but are not known to breed. Least Bitterns still frequent the much reduced marsh in Van Cortlandt Park. Wood Ducks also bred there and in Bronx Park. A flock of 75 Black Ducks at Ferry Point Park on August 24 probably were birds that had bred across the Sound on Long Island, though scattered pairs nest in our area.

#### HAWKS – OWLS:

Red-shouldered Hawks nested at Van Cortlandt Park and at Grassy Sprain. Sparrow Hawks are still common breeders, and a pair apparently nested on a building in the financial district of Manhattan (Eisemann). This year there was no attempt at skyscraper breeding by Peregrine Falcons, but individuals (presumably from the Palisades eyries) could regularly be seen perched on favorite lookouts in the city. Migrating Broad-winged Hawks and a Marsh Hawk were noted over Grassy Sprain as early as August 5, and an adult Bald Eagle over Van Cortlandt Park on August 26. While small numbers of Hawks were observed moving over the Van Cortlandt Park ridge throughout September, there was no big flight. The best day there, September 18, produced a count of 180 hawks: Sharp-shinned 110, Red-shouldered 2, Broad-winged 8, Marsh 11, Osprey 13, Sparrow 32, unidentified Falcons 5. On September 23 a total of 65 hawks were counted at this locality, and 30 at Grassy Spring (Karlin, Komorowski, Maxwell, Russak). The great Broadwing flight apparently skipped the Van Cortlandt ridge this fall, but was noted farther west near Greenwood Lake, where some 2000 Broadwings were seen on September 20 (Brown).

Clapper Rails were still resident in the salt marsh near Ferry Point Park, probably their last year as breeders there, for the area is being made a bathing beach. Virginia and Sora Rails were regularly seen in Van Cortlandt Park from June through September.

The counties here covered no longer afford any really good shorebird area, but migrants will appear even inland when flats are exposed, as by the falling water level of a reservoir; thus on August 5 at Grassy Sprain Reservoir four species, 95 individuals were counted. At Ferry Point Park on Long Island Sound, there were on August 24 seven species, and on September 3,

five, including a Golden Plover (rare in this area) (Komorowski).

About 150 non-breeding Herring Gulls summered near Ferry Point Park. Laughing Gulls are evident throughout the summer on the lower Hudson and Long Island Sound, though not known to nest around New York City; by September 10 their number had increased to 150 at Ferry Point Park. Common and Least Terns were noted there on September 3.

A flock of about 50 Mourning Doves on September 3 at Ferry Point Park was large for this area.

#### SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

The usual breeding Swifts, Kingfishers, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows, Corvids, Wrens, Catbirds, Thrashers and Thrushes were found in the area. Tree Swallows, though present in early June at Jerome Reservoir failed to breed (Brigham). Black-capped Chickadees did not nest this season in Bronx or Van Cortlandt Park or at Grassy Sprain.

Interesting Migrants: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher August 23 at Bronx Park (Komorowski); Migrant Shrike (rare hereabouts) August 24 at Ferry Point Park (Komorowski), September at Van Cortlandt Park (Karlin, Glasser); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, August 9, 22, 27 and 28 at Central Park (Mrs. Messing).

#### VIREOS – WARBLERS:

Of the Vireos the Red-eyed bred commonly, and the White-eyed, Yellow-throated, and Warbling locally, in this area. Yellow and Blue-winged Warblers, Redstart, Yellow-throat and Ovenbird still nest in the large parks of the Bronx. At Grassy Sprain in Westchester County, all of these species as well as the Black and White, Worm-eating, Chestnut-sided and Hooded Warblers and the Louisiana Water-thrush are regular breeders. The warbler migration was about average, without extraordinary waves. Species, such as Bay-breasted, Cape May and Tennessee, which are uncommon to rare in the spring, were seen in the city parks, as is usual, much more frequently and in larger numbers during September. The best Warbler flight in Central Park was on September 18, but there were good to moderate movements on September 8 and 27, with Connecticut Warbler on both days (Mrs. Messing).

#### BLACKBIRDS – SPARROWS:

Breeding of Icterids, Scarlet Tanager and the Finch tribe seemed normal for the area. The Bobolink, no longer breeding near the city, appeared at Van Cortlandt Park on September 1 and 2 in numbers between 200 - 300 (Komorowski); by September 27, Juncos were noted there (Komorowski). September 30 brought to Central Park Rusty Blackbirds and many Sparrows, including Lincoln's, and on October 10 there was another moderate movement (Carleton).

George Komorowski,  
240 East 199th Street,  
Bronx 58, New York

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### REGION 8 – LONG ISLAND

Reports came through of a successful 1951 breeding season on Western Long Island, but along the South Shore at Moriches and Shinnecock the Tern and Skimmer colonies have reportedly been continually harassed by

weasels for several years. These have decimated the young and discouraged breeding to such a degree that Inlet Island, near Moriches Inlet, formerly containing the largest Tern colony in New York state is now deserted. The Shinnecock colony, formerly harboring 2,000 to 3,000 Common Terns, this year had only 500 present along with one pair of Roseate Terns, 60 Black Skimmers and 77 Herring Gulls. On July 7 more than half of the young of these nesting species had been killed (R. Wilcox).

The weather was very favorable for land birds and many successful broods were raised. White-breasted Nuthatches at Speonk had two young able to fly on June 16. A Hummingbird's nest at Manorville, had eggs up to August 15 and young leaving the nest August 27 and several other late nests were reported. Northern Water-thrush, generally considered one of the first northern migrants, was noticeably late this year and where normally appearing in late July, the first report came of one on August 7.

Shorebirds came early and an abundance was reported at Lawrence, July 4, among which were 17 Greater Yellow-legs, 14 Lesser Yellow-legs, and 110 Dowitchers!

**LOONS — DUCKS:** One Red-throated and four Common Loons were reported at Jones Beach, September 2. Several Sooty Shearwaters were seen in mid-June, same location, and a Cory's at Montauk, August 27. On July 31 an Audubon's Shearwater was found fresh dead on the Northern State Parkway in the Dix Hills (E. Costich) and another, by the same observer at Cedar Beach, was found partly buried in the sand on September 4 and presumably dead for about a month. There appears to be only two other Long Island records for this accidental visitor, both at the same season.

As for nesting, an early Pied-billed Grebe had young on Oakland Lake in Alley Pond Park on April 21. The Snowy Egret bred this year in the Jones Beach Sanctuary instead of at Oak Beach. Two pairs of Yellow-crowned and 100 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons nested along with the Egrets with young in late June. The post-breeding maximum of American Egrets: 100 at Jones Beach, July 30, was about 50 percent of that of last year. Infiltrating Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons were also considerably fewer than a year ago. On June 26, at Jones Beach, 52 adult Gadwalls and 45 young were counted. A maximum of 160 Blue-winged Teal were present at Watermill on September 16. An early Green-winged Teal was present at Jones Beach, July 3, and the number increased toward the end of the month. August 26 brought the first mild concentration there with the appearance of the first Shoveller and Pintail (6) and an increase to 40 Green-winged Teal.

**HAWKS — OWLS:** The Red-shouldered Hawk was found summering at Manhasset and in the West Hills, and Broad-winged Hawk east to Port Jefferson. Some 25 nests of the Osprey were reported at Orient. Coot had young out by June 10 in Alley Pond Park. Upland Plover bred at Hicksville, and six were found in an old tract on The Plains at Syosett and were there to August 31. Migrating Upland Plover passed over Idlewild, mid-August with a maximum of five on August 14. A count of 150 pairs of Piping Plover and 25 pairs of Spotted Sandpipers was made at Short Beach, June 16. In this section a nesting total of 350 pairs of Common Terns, 450 pairs of Least Terns, six Roseate Terns and 30 pairs of Black Skimmers was counted. Eastern Long Island nesting totals included one pair of Great Black-backed Gulls, 1,500 Herring Gulls, 100 Common Terns



on Cartwright Island. A few miles to the north on the northern end of Gardiner's Island were 200 Common Terns, two Great Black-backed Gulls and 3,000 Herring Gulls (Wilcox). A Ruff, rare summer migrant, was observed at Jones Beach, June 26 and another at Idlewild, August 24. Shorebird maximum: Idlewild, August 24, estimated 4,000 Semipalmated Plover, 350 Black-bellied Plover, 150 Turnstone, two Hudsonian Curlews, 100 Greater Yellow-legs, 40 Lesser Yellow-legs, 50 Knot, three White-rumped Sandpipers, 60 Dowitchers, 6,000 Semipalmated Sandpipers, one Northern Phalarope, 800 Ring-billed Gulls, 300 Laughing Gulls, single Roseate and Forster's Terns, 200 Black Terns (Mayer). A Pomerain Jaeger was seen at Jones Beach on September 14, the only one of these pelagics reported.

**SWIFTS — SHRIKES:** The Nighthawk was reported from several locations with a maximum of 38 at Speonk, August 17. 200 Chimney Swifts were observed entering the chimneys of the Eastport Church and school on August 21. Least Flycatcher was reported breeding from Syosset and Manhasset. A Mockingbird was singing daily near Freeport for five weeks in June and July, but was not observed to nest. Several Short-billed Marsh Wrens summered in Massapequa. As for the migrants: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher appeared southward August 18, Red-breasted Nuthatch, August 26. A Hermit Thrush was singing its full song (probably a breeding bird) at Heckscher on August 12. A Greenland Wheatear was observed at Little Neck, September 9 to 16 (W. and G. Schoeffel, et al). Three Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers were observed on western Long Island, August 18 to 28. A Pipit appeared at Jones Beach, September 9 and Migrant Shrike was passing through around that date.

**VIREOS — WARBLERS:** The Warbling Vireo was observed nesting at Manhasset and slightly eastward in the Carolinian Flora on the North Shore. Black-throated Green Warbler was back again in the West Hills, where a Hooded Warbler was seen and heard singing June 16 but was not found nesting. One or two reports of Worm-eating Warbler summering on the North Shore. Among migrants there were fewer Cape May and Tennessee Warblers on western Long Island in the early fall. Bay-breasted Warbler appeared August 26. A Yellow-throated Warbler was seen creeping about in a mountain ash, September 16, in Far Rockaway (J. Bull). Southern Tier county breeding Warblers — Golden-wing, Worm-eating and Hooded — went almost unreported this fall. Wilson's Warbler first showed up September 9. The Chat appeared more abundant than usual.

**BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:** The Orchard Oriole is becoming increasingly scarce as a breeding bird. Cardinal reports are increasing with records coming from both the North and South Shore of Western Long Island, with young out of the nest on June 16. Indigo Bunting was present in the hill country of central Long Island and on the North Shore, and an unusual record was a male, out of its breeding range, at a Far Rockaway feeding station on July 10. The Henslow's Sparrow, regularly reported along the South Shore up to a decade ago, was not found breeding in any location this summer. Large areas of the flat farming country in central Nassau County built into housing communities has restricted the breeding range of the Vesper Sparrow.

John J. Elliott  
3994 Park Avenue,  
Seaford, Long Island, New York



## REGION 9 — CENTRAL NEW YORK

Owing to circumstances beyond the writer's control, a report of spring migration activity was omitted in the previous number of *The Kingbird*. While a few of these records for Region 9 have already been included in part in reports from Region 2, parts 1 and 2, these data appear to be of sufficient importance to be reported again in this issue under Region 9. The general pattern of spring migration was sporadic and spotty. In late March it appeared that we would have an early spring. A number of early spring migrants were observed at about the usual time but by the time warbler migration began, bird movement was very light and irregular as evidenced by the light warbler migration. The annual Eaton Bird Club Spring Census is held each year on the Sunday nearest May 15. In 1951 the date was May 13 and the total number of species observed was 157, as compared with 172, 166, and 159 in 1948, 1949 and 1950, respectively. Except for the more common species, relatively small numbers of the earlier appearing warblers were noted on May 13. Some appeared later up to May 23 (Mourning) — Mourning and Tennessee more common than usual.

Records of unusual interest in this area include: One White Pelican at Montezuma Wildlife Refuge from May 12 to September 15 (this has been observed by many persons); Purple Sandpiper from February 4 to March 19 at Dresden; American Egret at Montezuma Wildlife Refuge from April 29 and May 18 to September 30 (4) (65 seen on August 31); good migration of Red Crossbills May 1 to 15; 8 White-winged Crossbills on April 25; multiple finds of Golden-winged Warblers in the Junius area on June 20 (some acted as though they might possibly be nesting there); a single male Prothonotary Warbler also seen in Junius area on June 20; a pair of Carolina Wrens wintering and nesting (April 1) with 5 eggs at Billsboro, four miles south of Geneva; Bald Eagle nesting at Montezuma Refuge; Red-headed Woodpecker nesting at Dresden.

Mr. R. Wayland-Smith reports one Arkansas Kingbird at Sherrill, N. Y., on September 3. According to Kenneth C. Parks, "This species is seen almost every fall along the coastal strip of Long Island but to my knowledge Mr. Wayland-Smith's record is the first from the interior of the state." This bird was observed sitting on a telephone wire September 3 at 11 a. m. one mile north of Sherrill. Flickers seems to be present in large numbers this fall.

No appreciable migration of Warblers has been observed in Geneva area this fall. Earlier migrating species such as Swallows, Swifts, Martins, Baltimore Orioles (last heard on August 23), Robins, Goldfinches and Mourning Doves pretty well gone by first week in September. A few stragglers of Meadowlarks, Bluebirds, Mourning Doves, Chipping Sparrows (flock of 20 on September 17), Cowbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, Flickers and Purple Finches still present at this writing (September 30). Six Cardinals (including 4 young) and one Purple Finch observed at writer's feeding station in Geneva on September 30.

### LOONS — DUCKS:

Common Loon scarce during spring and fall. No fall migrants of Horned Grebe observed by September 23, but Pied-bill Grebes still present in numbers. Marsh Ducks — Mallard, Black, Wood, Baldpate and Blue and Green-

winged Teal present in moderate numbers (2000 Baldpates and 40 Wood Ducks September 9 and 10,000 Baldpates September 22 at Montezuma). No diving ducks present on Seneca Lake to date. First flock of 75 Canada Geese on September 27. American Egrets spent summer at Montezuma in large numbers for second year (75 or more). Great Blue Heron and Bittern seen September 23. Forty Blue Geese flying south over Fayetteville on September 1 (Dr. Spofford).

#### HAWKS — OWLS:

Two Broad-winged Hawks observed on September 16; several Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, Marsh and Sparrow Hawks observed on August 23, and 3 Red-tailed, 3 Red-shouldered, 7 Marsh and 1 Sparrow Hawk on September 15. Many Marsh Hawks going south from September 21 to October 3 (Dr. Spofford). Bald Eagle nested at Montezuma, still present on September 9. Few records on shore birds. Three Florida Gallinule chicks, recently hatched, observed on August 31 — “feathered out” by September 23 and still with parents. In a letter from Kenneth C. Parkes, I received information that Mr. R. Wayland-Smith saw about 50 Golden Plovers at 5:30 p. m. on September 2, one mile north of Sherrill, N. Y. The writer, together with his wife, Mrs. H. Glasgow and F. Z. Hartzell, observed 8 Golden Plovers at 300 feet on September 23 in Montezuma flats on plowed muck land — 5 others reported September 30 (Onondaga Audubon Society). Semipalmated Plovers (25) at Onondaga Lake flats October 1. Black-bellied Plover reported from very good shore bird area around Syracuse. Two Ruddy Turnstones at Sylvan Beach August 9 and 2 at Onondaga Lake flats August 26. One Woodcock (injured) September 22. One Hudsonian Curlew reported (calling) Montezuma September 30; 60 Lesser Yellow Legs Onondaga flats September 3; Pectoral Sandpipers in fair numbers; 15 White-rumped Sandpipers in mixed flocks Onondaga Lake flats; 2 Red-backed Sandpipers at Montezuma on September 30 and 2 at Onondaga Lake flats October 1. One Dowitcher at Onondaga Lake flats on August 26 and October 1 (still in spring plumage); also one at Montezuma September 30; one Stilt Sandpiper Onondaga Lake flats on September 3 (full plumage) and one at Montezuma September 30; Semipalmated Sandpipers very common but great fluctuation in numbers; Baird's Sandpiper, 2 reports from Sandy Pond (outside Region 9); one Western Sandpiper at Sylvan Beach on September 16 and one Northern Phalarope at same place on September 30; Black Tern shows terrific drop in numbers.

Fall record of one Common Tern September 9; one Great Black-backed Gull by Loren Ward at Geneva on September 30 (this latter is an early date for Geneva); 100 or more Bonaparte's Gulls on September 23. Owl records very scarce — only Barred, Screech, Barn and Great Horned being recorded for the year and in limited numbers.

#### SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

400 Swallows (Tree, Rough-winged and a few Barn) at Montezuma on September 15. A late record of 2 Chimney Swifts noted by the writer on October 2 in Geneva. One Red-breasted Nuthatch observed on September 20 and October 5; one pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers and 3 Long-billed Marsh Wrens noted at Montezuma Marsh on September 9; 2 Phoebe and

one Catbird seen September 30; some Horned Larks still present October 4, migrating over Syracuse on September 24; most Robins gone but flocks of 10 to 15 may still be seen (October 1); Bluebirds present in flocks of 3 to 5 October 1 to 4; few records of either species of Kinglet this fall. (Some moved through Syracuse and vicinity in late September and early October). One Kingbird September 15 at Montezuma. Brown Creeper singing September 15. Flight of Olive-backed and Gray-checked Thrushes moving through Syracuse September 25. Pipits on September 16; 3 Bobolinks (singing) September 30 (this is a late date); also Rusty Blackbirds singing on same date at Montezuma Refuge.

#### VIREOS — WARBLERS:

Fall migration very spotty and in small flocks except Myrtle Warbler on September 30 to October 1. Yellow-throated Vireo last seen on September 9, Red-eyed on September 9 and 23, Warbling on September 9 and 18; one report of a Philadelphia Vireo on September 23. Warblers — Nashville, Redstart, Yellow, Canada, Magnolia and Black-throated Green observed on September 23; Black-throated Blue on September 30. Tennessee (30) Parula (1) Magnolia (2) Cape May (1), Black-throated Blue (1) Bay-breasted (10), Pine (1), Redstart (2), Yellow-throat (3) on September 15 at Montezuma. Heavy flight of Yellow-throats through Syracuse on September 29. Warblers have been very scarce this fall. Mourning Warblers were more common than usual last spring.

#### BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

Most Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbirds and Grackles had migrated prior to September 9, although small flocks of Redwings still present on September 30. Cardinals appear to be definitely on the increase in central New York. The writer has had records from Geneva, Montezuma, Marion, Palmyra, Newark, Clifton Springs, Dansville and Branchport during 1951. In addition, they frequented his feeding station during fall, winter of 1950 and the spring and fall of 1951. These observations are most encouraging to one who has known the Cardinal as a common bird in the Piedmont Plateau region of South Carolina in his boyhood. The Carolina Wren nested (5 eggs) south of Geneva this spring, but through an unfortunate circumstance the back shed door was closed one cold night and the nest was abandoned. The eggs and nest were donated to the Geneva School Nature Museum. White-crowned, White-throated and Chipping Sparrows, and Slate-colored Juncos began appearing in Geneva September 26 and fairly large flocks of the former were seen on October 1.

The writer takes this opportunity of acknowledging participation of the recently formed Onondaga Audubon Society. This group has contributed many fine records which have been included in the current report. I was also very pleased to receive the excellent observations (via Kenneth Parkes) of Mr. R. Wayland-Smith, 137 Kenwood Avenue, Oneida, N. Y. Reports of other observers in Region 9 would be greatly appreciated for inclusion in future numbers.

Foster L. Gambrell,  
288 Lafayette Avenue,  
Geneva, New York

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